

Council Meeting

14 July 2020

Agenda Item 1 : Public Participation, petitions, and deputations (Standing Orders 2(vi) and 17, as amended by new Standing Order 5A)

Submission from Ben Moss, Winford Resident

“Last month we saw temperatures in the arctic circle at more than 100degrees Fahrenheit, shattering all previous records. Our last year to date, has had global temperatures averaging 1.3 degrees above pre-industrial baseline levels. It is becoming increasingly clearer that climate breakdown is happening faster than some sources would have liked us to believe. The climate and ecological emergency will be the defining narrative over the coming years and decades, beyond COVID and subsequent economic crises in the coming months and years. The COVID crisis has also highlighted the vulnerability of our food production and distribution systems. On the positive side, COVID has also demonstrated the resilience and strength in our local communities in supporting each other, including the most vulnerable to suffering.

North Somerset is being pressured to provide housing and other economic developments, and we know this is a current topic within the ongoing work and agendas of N Somerset Council officers and committees.

North Somerset have an immediate responsibility to it's residents and future generations to not only ensure that all developments in the area are net-zero carbon, but beyond this, that they are ecologically-positive, carbon-negative, and socially-generative.

The Government has reform of housing and planning in it's sights. The recent document 'Planning for the Future' from March 2020, anticipates a 'Green Housing Revolution'. However, the remit of this report seems limited, seeing housing in isolation- and not a more all-encompassing vision of home, work, food production, community, and environment. Certainly the targets of 80% lower carbon emissions starting in 2025 denies the absolute urgency of the climate emergency.

As a local authority you will have direct input into the consultation on whitepapers, laws and other reforms.

There are examples throughout the country, and beyond, of developments which attain housing, carbon drawdown, ecological regeneration, community inclusion, and economic value. For instance, The Ecological Land Cooperative, has a model of employment, housing, regenerative land use and community engagement, that is functioning in six counties throughout England and Wales. The ELC creates genuinely 'Green, affordable and beautiful homes' and more which benefit all.

Will the council please explore and support genuinely transformative housing and land-use models now, so as to demonstrate leadership in the face of a government who appear to lack the breadth of vision to tackle the very real and dangerous challenges ahead?

Many thanks”